

INTERVIEW WITH INVESTIGATOR YASIN ABDULAHAD

Interviewer: Inv. Don Haff

02-13-17/1:42 pm

Case # 17-I-0057-PS

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INTERVIEW WITH INVESTIGATOR YASUN ABDULAHAD

Q=Inv. Don Haff

A=Inv. Yasin Abdulahad

A1=(Sandra Michaels)

13Q: Today is February 13, 2017. The time is 1:42 pm. Can you state your name for the record?

16A: My name is Yasin Abdulahad.

18Q: What is your rank?

20A: Investigator.

22Q: What is your unique ID number?

24A: 4332.

26Q: I'm Investigator Haff of the Atlanta Police Department. You're being questioned as in accused in an official investigation by the department. Also present is your attorney. Would you please state your name for the record?

30A1: (Sandra Michaels).

32Q: Before you begin the interview, you need to be aware that except is authorized or required an employee shall not interfere with nor contact persons involved in an internal investigation nor disclose or discuss with anyone except the designated departmental or authority the existence or facts of an internal investigation. This restriction will not be construed to prohibit an employee from discussing any aspect of the investigation with his or her representative. Administrative statements made by employees and evidence gained by reasons of such statements may not be used against the employee criminal proceedings involving the employee except in cases of perjury. Do you understand what I've just explained to you?

43A: I understand.

45Q: I have shown to you and explained to you the awareness statement. You

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signed it and dated it indicating that you understand if you're untruthful in this investigation you will be dismissed. Is that correct?

I understand, yes.

I've also shown to you and explained to you the written notice of allegations outlining the allegation made against you that is being investigated and your rights and duties as an employee. You've signed it and dated it indicating that you understand what the allegation is and your rights and duties. Is that correct?

Yes, sir.

Where are you currently assigned?

Uh, I'm temporarily assigned to the Gun Ass- uh, Gun - Gun Assault Team or the Gun Reduction Task Force, falls under the Gang Unit.

Is that where you were assigned on January 26, 2017?

It is.

While at work on January 26, 2017 did you have the occasion to go 3393 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway, The Public Safety Annex?

No, sir. The address is 3493 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway.

'Kay. Did you go to 3493 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway, The Public Safety Annex on January 26, 2017?

Yes, sir I did. I'm sorry.

What were you doing at that location?

Uh, I was to going flag a warrant.

What kind of car were you in?

Uh, I was in a, uh, vehicle assigned to the Gang Unit which is a Dodge - a red Dodge Charger.

Is it a marked City of Atlanta patrol car or is it an undercover car?

It's an undercover car.

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91Q: Were you riding alone that night or did you have a partner?

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93A: I had a partner.

94

95Q: And who was that?

96

97A: Investigator (Elmalik Roberson El).

98

99Q: Where did you park when you arrived at the Public Safety Annex?

100

101A: Uh, I parked in front of, uh, before the gate in front of the building.

102

103Q: So this is an area that is open to the public for parking?

104

105A: Yes, sir.

106

107Q: When you pulled in and parked the vehicle di- did you notice anything unusual?

108

109

110A: Uh, not at first. What? While in the vehicle or outside the vehicle?

111

112Q: At any point while - when - while in or once you got out?

113

114A: When I got out of the vehicle I did.

115

116Q: What did - wh- what did you notice that was odd?

117

118A: Uh, a - a strong odor of marijuana. And, um, I smelt it in the air.

119

120Q: Were you able to determine where it was coming from?

121

122A: Yes, sir.

123

124Q: And where was that?

125

126A: It was coming from the vehicle that was parked two spaces down from us.

127

128Q: Can you describe that vehicle to me?

129

130A: A black sedan. Not sure of make and model.

131

132Q: And what did you do once you determined that the smell was coming from that vehicle?

133

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135A: I advised my partner.

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137Q:

And did what?

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139A:

And then after I advised my partner, he walked around the veh - around our vehicle. Um, we approached the vehicle. I - I had told the passenger - because there was a passenger in the vehicle. He was in the front seat passenger, um, position of the vehicle. Told him to roll down the window, um, we had our badges around our necks. Um, my partner he said, "What you doing smoking weed?" And he said, "I don't have any weed." I got up close the window and I said, "I smell marijuana. Oh, I smell weed coming from the window," and, uh, he said, "We smoked it all already." And then, um, he was acting kinda strange so I stepped back. I placed my paperwork on top of my car and then I took a different position from where I was, uh, more like at the 2 or at - by the 2 o'clock of the vehicle - position of the vehicle and, um - um, he - uh, the passenger had his arm all way down so I wasn't sure what he had in his hand or what - it seem - it - uh, it appeared to me as if he was trying to hide something. So, uh, I kinda put my hand on my weapon. He, um - my partner was talking to him, um, and then at a point he told him step out of the veh - he advised him to get out of the vehicle. Uh, the passenger he got out of the vehicle and, um, my partner kept him right where he can see him and then, um, while - as - as - as he was getting out of the vehicle I saw him motion like this and then get out of the vehicle.

158
159Q:

Motion like what? Des...

160
161A:

He - he motioned - I'm sorry. He motioned, uh, as if he was pushing something, uh, farther awa - uh, away from the door towards the, um, middle of the, uh, the two seats. So when he got out and I saw his hands were clear then I kinda relaxed and I took my hand off my weapon. Um, he stepped out of the vehicle and, um, my partner told him, hey look, and - and I wasn't sure why he said this. I - I - I - I wasn't sure why he said this but, uh, I think this - the, um - the, um, (Deaundrea Phillips) he did something to make my partner say, "Hey look don't try to run because if you do, uh, he's gon' walk you down," and he's motioning towards me. And, uh, basically saying that if you try to run I'm gonna be able to catch him. So, um, at this moment I moved in a way to where he had no way to get out, not even a crack. He tried to push past Investigator (Robeson El). That's when I put my hands on him. (Robeson El) broke contact and got on his radio. Um, he - when I was s- sitting there trying to hold on to him he slipped out and got inside the vehicle. I jumped on top of him and, uh, I looked down. He - he was reaching for something. I grabbed him and looked down and I saw that he was reaching for a gun. I pushed him farther into the vehicle and that's when he was, uh, it would have slide into the driver's seat. I told him don't pull off, don't pull off. He, uh, put into gear, made a right turn. As he made the right turn, I'm saying, "Stop, stop, stop." I pulled my weapon out. He passed up the exit to go up. He, uh, went past that

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and that's when I, um, I sa- I said, "Stop." I saw the, um, the light pole, the black light pole of my peripheral. I saw that he was heading towards there. So at that point, uh, um, I told him stop one more time and I pulled the trigger.

Can you tell me, uh, how you were dressed?

Yes. I was wearing a, um, black jacket, a grey t-shirt with, uh - I can't remember what exactly was on it -- some blue jeans. I had my badge and my, um, and my work ID around my neck. Uh, I was wearing a Atlanta Falcons hat and I was wearing some black and red, uh, Polo boots. Um, uh, I missed one part before, um, in my statement. Um, while he was driving I saw him - his right hand was right here and he - he was still trying to reach over the - the console to grab the weapon and I had no way of stopping him from grabbing that weapon 'cause I was sitting there trying to hold on. The only thing I can do is to pull out my gun.

What were you holding on to?

I wasn't sure if I was holding onto him or the seat. I - I can't remember.

And you thought that he was gonna strike the pole?

Yes, sir.

Describe to me how you were positioned in the vehicle as the vehicle pulled out?

Uh, I had, uh, I had one knee on the seat, uh, my left knee and I ha - I had my right leg out as a - that's from what I remember. And, um, I was trying to get him back out at first and then when I saw the gun I pushed him back - I pushed him all the way in.

And that's when he pulled out?

Yes.

And when he pulled out of the parking space, uh, was the door still open on the passenger side?

Yes, sir.

At any time were you in the vehicle with the door closed?

No, sir.

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226Q: At any time were you sitting upright in the passenger seat?
227
228A: You talking about like sitting - like I am right - like, uh, sitting in the seat?
229
230Q: Yes.
231
232A: No, sir.
233
234Q: So you were stretched out across the vehicle then?
235
236A: Yes, sir.
237
238Q: Trying to hold on?
239
240A: Yes, sir.
241
242Q: You recall if, uh, you or Investigator (Robeson El) identified yourself as
243 Atlanta Police Officers?
244
245A: Yes, sir.
246
247Q: Did you know (Deaundre Phillips) prior to this incident?
248
249A: No, sir.
250
251Q: Did anyone take possession of your clothing?
252
253A: Yes.
254
255Q: Who?
256
257A: GBI.
258
259Q: And were you photographed in the clothing before they took possession of it?
260
261A: I was.
262
263Q: Did you speak with anyone else about the incident that night?
264
265A: Uh, no, sir. I - I - I talk - I talked to EAP. I spoke with EAP about the incident.
266
267Q: Were you injured as a result of this incident?
268
269A: N- no, sir. I made - made my plantar fasciitis but that was it.
270

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271Q: Did, uh, EMTs take a look at you when they arrived?

272

273A: No, sir.

274

275Q: Did you complete any type of a supplemental report, uh, regarding this
276 incident? Fire arms discharge or anything?

277

278A: Yeah, I did.

279

280Q: Have you provided a statement to the GBI?

281

282A: Not yet.

283

284Q: You said that, um, as the vehicle pulled from the parking space, you were
285 struggling to hold on?

286

287A: Yes, sir.

288

289Q: And that the suspect was continuously trying to reach for the gun?

290

291A: Yes, sir.

292

293Q: And where was the gun at this point in time when he was trying to reach
294 forward?

295

296A: The gun - if I'm in the passenger seat it was - uh, if I'm sitting in the
297 passenger seat it was on the - on the left side of the, uh - on - on the floor
298 board on the left side of the, um, uh, floor board like, uh...

299

300Q: Was...

301

302A: ...closer towards the, uh, closer towards the driver - driver side.

303

304Q: Was it in the driver's floor board or the passenger's floor board?

305

306A: No, the passenger's floor board.

307

308Q: But it was closer to the left side?

309

310A: Yes. It was closer towards where the driver can - can reach forward. It's a
311 sedan so is - I mean you can grab something from the floor over there.

312

313Q: Describe the manner in which Mr. (Phillips) was operating the vehicle, uh,
314 when you fired the shot.

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316A: He was looking straight ahead and still reaching try - like holding on and I - it
317 looks like he was back and forth between looking and looking down.

318
319Q: And - and in addition - in - besides the light pole there dead ahead, what else
320 was ahead of him?

321
322A: The, um, the hill going up towards the street.

323
324Q: Was it a road?

325
326A: The - the hill? No, sir it wasn't a road. It was grass.

327
328Q: So he passed the exit?

329
330A: Yes, sir.

331
332Q: Is there anything else that you can think of you like to add to your statement
333 that you believe might be helpful in this investigation?

334
335A: Not that I can recall. No sir, not right now.

336
337Q: Have you been honest making your statement today?

338
339A: Yes, sir.

340
341Q: Be advised that should it become necessary in this investigation you may be
342 directed to submit to Computer Voice Stress Analysis Exam per
343 APD.SOP.3120. Do you acknowledge this official notification?

344
345A: I do.

346
347Q: That concludes this interview. The time is 1:55 pm.

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349
350The transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
351transcription.

352Signed _____